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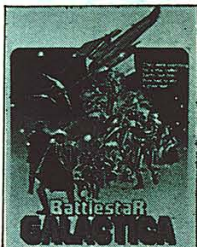
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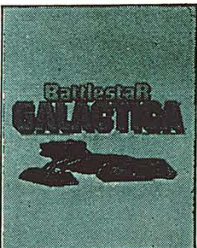
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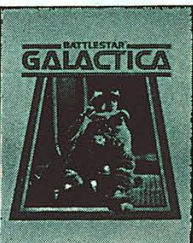
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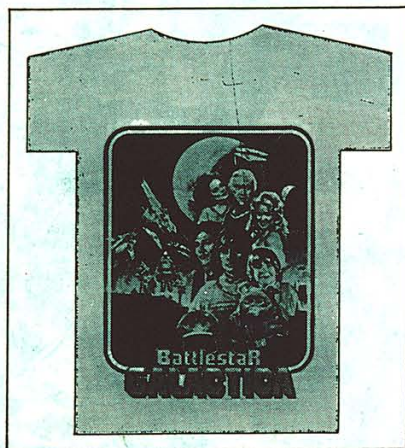


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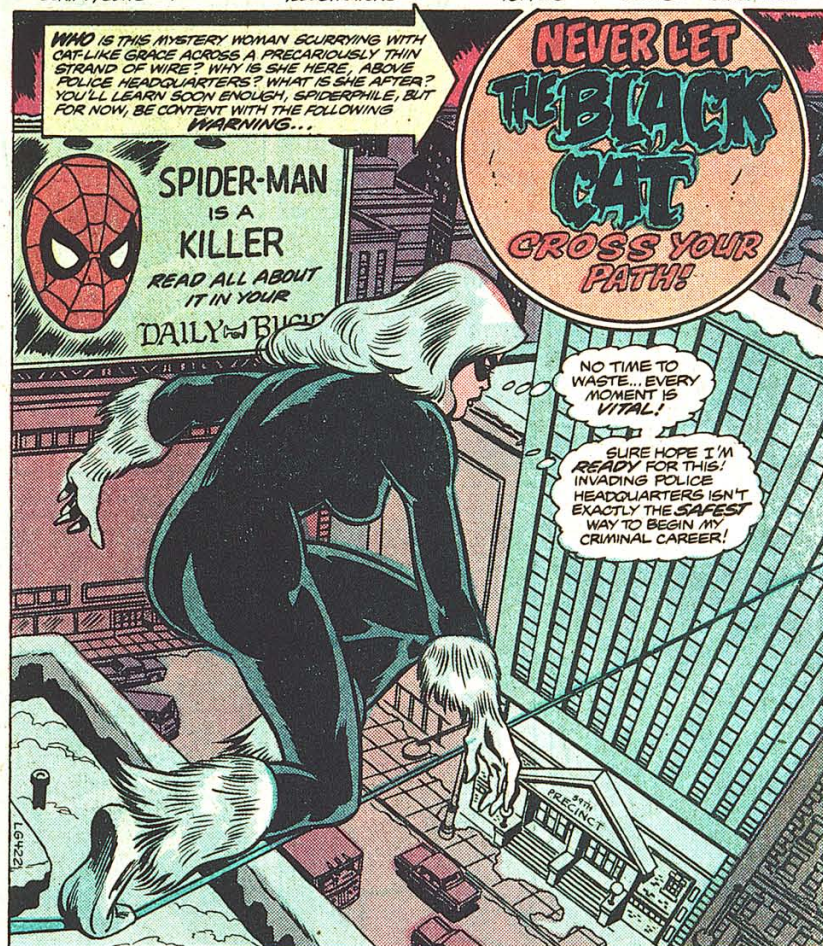
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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

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BUT IF I WERE INTERESTED IN SAFETY, I'D'VE GONE IN FOR SEWING INSTEAD OF STEALING.

BESIDES, I'VE TRAINED FOR THIS MOMENT FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS. ALL MY SENSES HAVE BEEN HONED TO THEIR FINEST, AS FOR MY GYMNASTICS, I'D PUT NADIA COMANECI TO SHAME.

NO ONE AROUND, THEN I WAS RIGHT. THEY'VE ALL GONE FOR THEIR COFFEE BREAK.



I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH TO THE FILES AND THEN BATTLE MY WAY OUT AGAIN.

I'D JUST AS SOON AVOID TROUBLE NOW.

THEY'LL BE PLENTY OF THAT IN JUST A LITTLE WHILE.

HHMM, ORDERLY FILES. THE CIVILIAN SECRETARIES KNOW THEIR JOB.



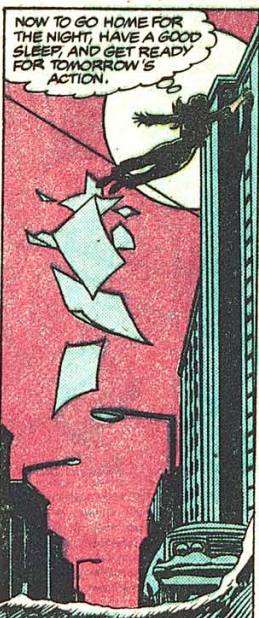
WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, I OUGHT TO WRITE A COMMENDATION LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONER ON HOW EASY IT IS TO FIND WHAT YOU NEED.

UH OH, FOOTSTEPS COMING DOWN THE HALL... MY CUE TO LEAVE!

WITH CANNY PRECISION, SHE NIMBLY DARTS ACROSS A CITY OF NARROW LEDGES AND DANGEROUS ROOFS UNTIL SHE COMES TO REST ON A FAINTLY WAVERING WIND-BLOWN TELEPHONE WIRE...



HHMM... PERFECT. I'D SAY TONIGHT'S LITTLE EXERCISE WAS WELL WORTH IT.



NOW TO GO HOME FOR THE NIGHT, HAVE A GOOD SLEEP, AND GET READY FOR TOMORROW'S ACTION.



A DAY PASSES RATHER UNEVENTFULLY, BUT THEN, WHEN EVENING COMES...

WHAT A WASTE OF THOSE MARVELOUS MUSCLES. THERE HE IS, STEALING TIRES!

WELL, IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, HE WON'T BE WASTING THEM MUCH LONGER.



HEY, BOSS, Y'WANT ME T'LLIG OVER S'MORE TIRES? WE STILL GOT ROOM!

NAH, WE GOT ENOUGH, BRUNO.

AN' DIDN'T I TELL YA NOT TA CALL ME BOSS NO MORE?



YEAH, I JUST FERGOT, THAT'S ALL. HEY... HEY! BOSS, Y'HEAR THAT?

YEAH... YEAH... SOUNDS LIKE A CAT PURRIN' S'WHAT?



HOLY CROW! B-BOSS-- IT'S A GIANT CAT! LOOK!

YOU DUMMY! THAT'S JUST A SHADOW! GIANT CAT-- SHEESH!

QUIT SPOOKIN' ME, BRUNO. AN QUIT CALLIN' ME BOSS.

YEAH, SURE, WHATEVER Y'SAY, BOSS.

THE TWO WORK IN SILENCE FOR ANOTHER MOMENT, AND THEN...



BOSS! SOMETHIN'S INSIDE THE TRUCK-- LOOK!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! ALL THOSE TIRES ARE SPILLIN' OUT!

AN' AFTER I STACKED 'EM, REAL NEAT.



BRUNO! GET THESE STUPID THINGS OFF ME.

MY ARTHRITIS WAS ACTIN' UP THIS MORNING. I SHOULD'A KNEW IT WAS GONNA BE A LOUSEY DAY!

HEY, BOSS-- Y' GOTTA LOOK AT THIS... Y' GOTTA!

I'M WARNIN' YA, BRUNO-- QUIT CALLIN' ME BOSS. I'M NOT YER BOSS.



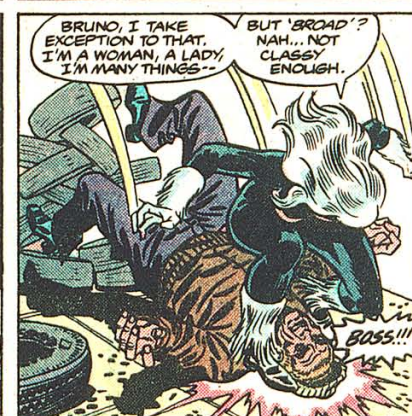
SORRY, BOSS, BUT SOMETHIN'S ON THE TRUCK-- LOOK AT THEM GLOWIN' EYES!

THAT GIANT CAT IS BACK!

BUT DON'T WORRY NONE, BOSS-- I'LL GET RIDDA IT!

NO, YOU WON'T, BRUNO!

HUNK? IT'S A BROAD!



BRUNO, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO THAT. I'M A WOMAN, A LADY, I'M MANY THINGS--

BUT 'BROAD'? NAH... NOT CLASSY ENOUGH.

BOSS!!!

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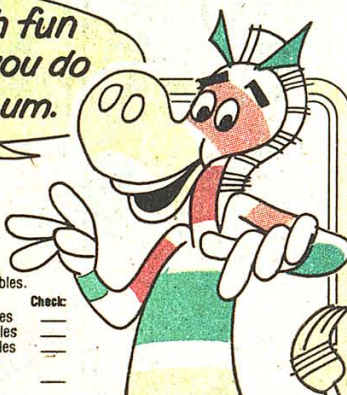
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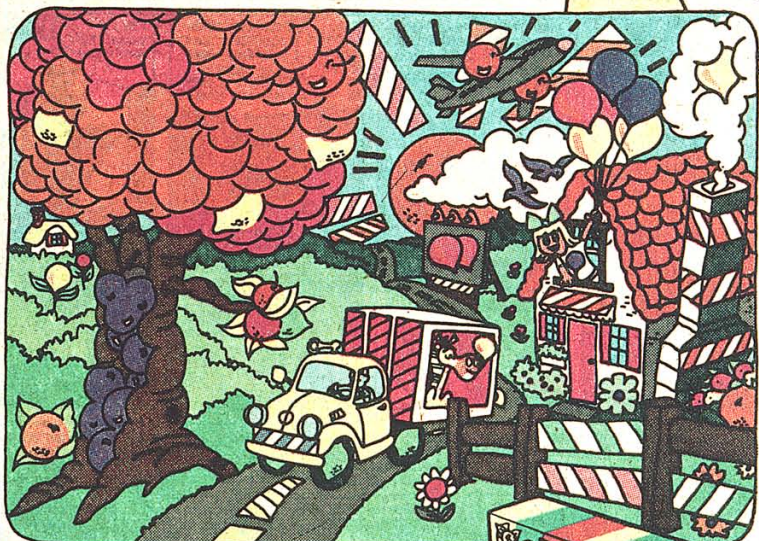
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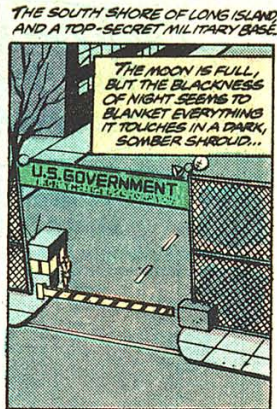
SO WHY DON'T THE TWO OF US BUILD A NEW PARTNERSHIP, EH? YOU WORK FOR ME.

ME WORK FOR A BROAD?



SURE, AND YOU CAN EVEN CALL ME BOSS IF YOU WANT TO.

HUH? OKAY... SURE... WHY NOT, BOSS?



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THE MOON IS FULL, BUT THE BLACKNESS OF NIGHT SEEMS TO BLANKET EVERYTHING. IT TOUCHES IN A DARK, SOMBER SHROUD...

...INCLUDING ONE 'DOCTOR BORIS KORSE, MASTER SCIENTIST AND DEMOLITIONS EXPERT...'

HAN!

THOSE INEFFECTUAL GUARDS ARE ALL DOLLS OR BLIND OR BOTH!



NOT ONE OF THEM SPOTTED ME--NOT ONE WILL KNOW I WAS EVEN HERE.



ALL THEIR MUCH-VAUNTED SECURITY, ALL THEIR INTRICATE PLANS TO KEEP OUT SABOTEURS MEANT NOTHING TO ME.



ONLY DOCTOR KORSE COULD BREAK THEIR TOP-SECRET SECURITY CODES WITH SUCH EASE.



OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

IT IS NOW DAY, SO LET US VISIT A CERTAIN MAY PARKER AT THE RESTWELL NURSING HOME...

YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, AUNT MAY. THE REST SEEMS TO HAVE HELPED.



I FEEL BETTER, PETER DEAR. I WALK A LITTLE NOW.

I MAY EVEN ENTER THAT SHUFFLE BOARD CONTEST NEXT WEEK.

WILL THE MAN WHO SAVED YOU THAT WINTER BACK THERE BE YOUR PARTNER?



OH, YOU MEAN THAT NICE MR. WILLIAMS? I THINK HE LIKES ME.

THEN HE HAS EXCELLENT TASTE.



AUNT MAY, I'VE GOT TO GO NOW. BUT I'LL BE BACK. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, DEAR.



I JUST WORRY WHETHER YOU'RE DRESSING WARM ENOUGH. THERE IS A FEW GOING AROUND, YOU KNOW.



YOUNG PARKER IS LEAVING. BUT HE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW.

HE DOTES ON HIS AUNT, WON'T LEAVE HER ALONE FOR TOO LONG. SO CAN'T YOU SEE YOUR PLAN WON'T WORK? WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE DOOR, MRS. PARKER ALONE?

WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE US ALL ALONE?



SHUT UP, DOC. UNLESS YA WANT THE FUZZ TA FIND YER BODY FLOATIN' IN THE EAST RIVER...

I WAS LOOKIN' FER SOMETHING WHEN I SHOT THAT PARKER DAME'S HUSBAND--AN' NOW SHE KNOWS WHERE IT IS.

GET IT, DOC. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.



NOW, YA SAY THIS KID COMES EVERY DAY, EH? WELL, THAT'S GOTTA STOP!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL HIM, ARE YOU?

MEBBE... UNLESS YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHIN' BETTER.



NO! I'LL NOT HELP YOU, YOU'RE INSANE! MAD!

DON'T DARE CALL ME THAT, DOC... DON'T CALL ME MAD, 'CAUSE I AIN'T. YOU GOT THAT? I AIN'T MAD.



THE DOCS IN PRISON CALLED ME THAT, TOO. BUT I KNOW I AIN'T CRAZY.

RIGHT, DOC? RIGHT?! I AIN'T CRAZY?

YES... YES... YOU'RE NOT CRAZY.

BUT YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, MAN... IN WAYS YOU COULD NEVER IMAGINE!



OKAY, DOC... YOU GONNA HELP ME GET RIDDA THE PARKER KID?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU... JUST AS SOON AS I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

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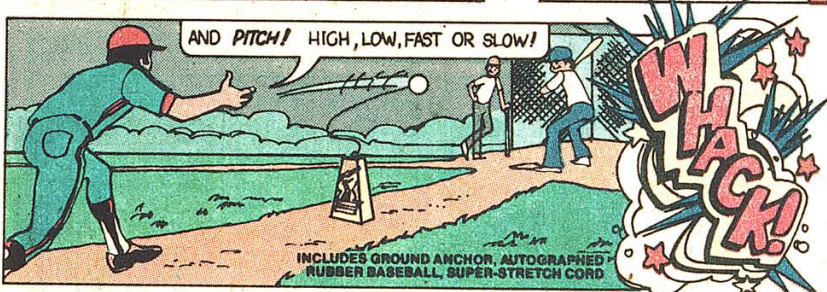
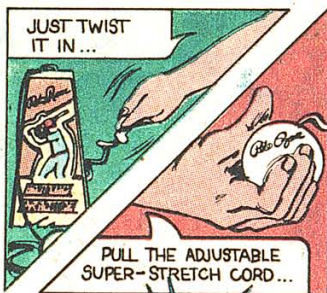
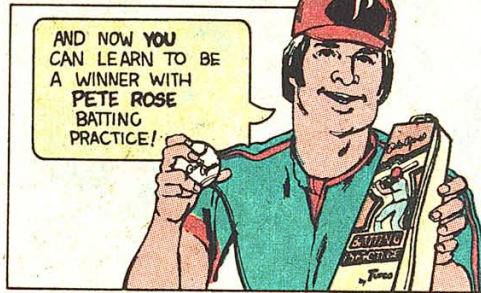
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Pete Rose BATTING PRACTICE

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MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY GLOBE...

C'MON, BETTY, LET'S HAVE THIS OUT.

WHAT'S PARKER GOT THAT I HAVEN'T?



EXCUSE ME, BETTY, I'M GOING UP TO SEE JAMESON, HOLD ALL MY CALLS.

AS JOE ROBERTSON LEAVES...

WELL? YOU'RE MY WIFE, YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION. I COME BACK FROM AN ASSIGNMENT AND YOU'RE GONE!

THAT WAS THE PROBLEM, NED. YOU WERE ALWAYS ON ASSIGNMENT... SOMEWHERE. PETER WAS WITH ME WHEN I NEEDED HIM.



NED, I WANT MY HUSBAND AT HOME, NOT COVERING A STORY WHO KNOWS WHERE.

JONAH, MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?

SURE, SURE, SURE, C'MON IN, ROBERTSON. WHAT'S UP?



I WANT TO SHOW YOU TODAY'S GLOBE!

WHAT COULD THAT RAG HAVE THAT WOULD INTEREST ME?

WHAT? THE TORCH AND SPIDER-MAN TOGETHER?? WHO TOOK THAT PHOTO? WHY DON'T WE HAVE ONE?

READ THE CREDIT, JONAH!

THE DAILY GLOBE SPIDER-MAN AND HUMAN TORCH FOIL MONOCLE



"PETER PARKER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER!" WHAT? THAT MISERABLE LITTLE TURNCOAT! THAT FILTHY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING TRAITOR!

I TEACH HIM EVERYTHING HE KNOWS AND WHAT DOES HE DO? HE RUINS OUTON ME!

YOU FIRED HIM. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

OF COURSE I REMEMBER, AND IF HE WERE HERE NOW I'D FIRE HIM AGAIN!



ROBERTSON, I NEVER WANT TO HEAR HIS NAME SPOKEN IN THIS OFFICE! YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

GET OUT NOW, LEAVE ME ALONE!



I JUST MIGHT DO THAT ONE DAY, JONAH.

PARKER! WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TROUBLES ALL AROUND ME?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO IRRISITABLE!



WHAT? YOU?!

HOW DARE YOU COME HERE, YOU STINKING MURDERER? GET OUT! GET OUT!

NOT UNTIL WE TALK, JAMESON. JUST THE TWO OF US.



YOU'LL LISTEN, JONAH, I GUARANTEE IT.

FORGET IT, CREEP! I NOT AFTER TALK ALL YOU WANT TO, BUT THE REAL SURPRISE I'M PLANNING FOR YOU.



SURPRISE? WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW?



ALL RIGHT, FLATHEAD, NO MORE MR. NICE GUY. WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

THREATENING ME, EH? ALRIGHT THEN--



HELP! HE'S MURDERING ME!

OKAY! OKAY! I'M GOING FOR NOW, BUT I'LL BE BACK.

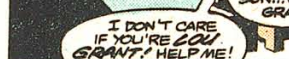
TRY IT, YOU WESSED MURDERER! MY GUARDS WILL SQUASH YOU IF YOU EVEN SHOW YOUR MASK AROUND HERE!

MR. JAMESON!

DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, MR. GRANT! GET ME DOWN!

IT'S GRANT, MR. JAMESON... GLORY GRANT!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE LOU GRANT! HELP ME!



MEANWHILE...

JONAH KNOWS! HE MUST'VE TAKEN OFF MY MASK WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS, HE KNOWS WHO I AM.*



WHAT DO I DO NOW? AND WHAT'S THIS SURPRISE HE'S PLANNING FOR ME?

BLAST, I DON'T KNOW IF I'M COMING OR GOING. HE'S GOT ME ALL WORKED UP.

GOTTA CALM DOWN... THINK THINGS THROUGH... IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT SEEMS.

SURE...



A QUICK CHANGE TO PETER PARKER, AND SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY GLOBE...

PARKER! GOOD TSEE YOU, M'BOY.

HOW YOU DOIN' LAD, YOU HAPPY HERE?



EVERYTHING'S BEEN GREAT, MR. BUSHKIN. NO PROBLEMS.

BARNEY, BOY-- BARNEY! HEY, I WANT A CIGAR? HAVANAS!

ER, NO THANKS, MR. BU-- ER, BARNEY.



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CONAN
SILVER SURFER
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ADULTS - S, M, L, X-L

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KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PETE. YOU'RE A REAL WONDER!

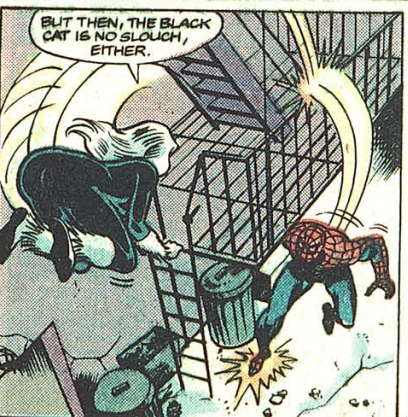
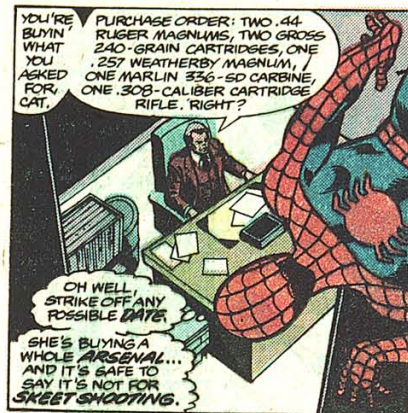
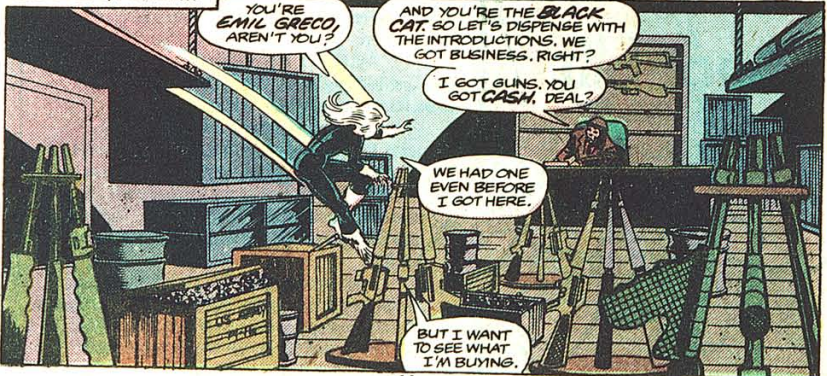
THANKS, BARNEY, I'LL TRY.

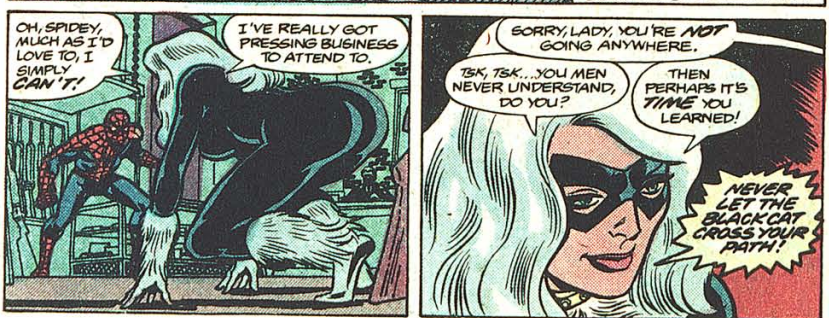
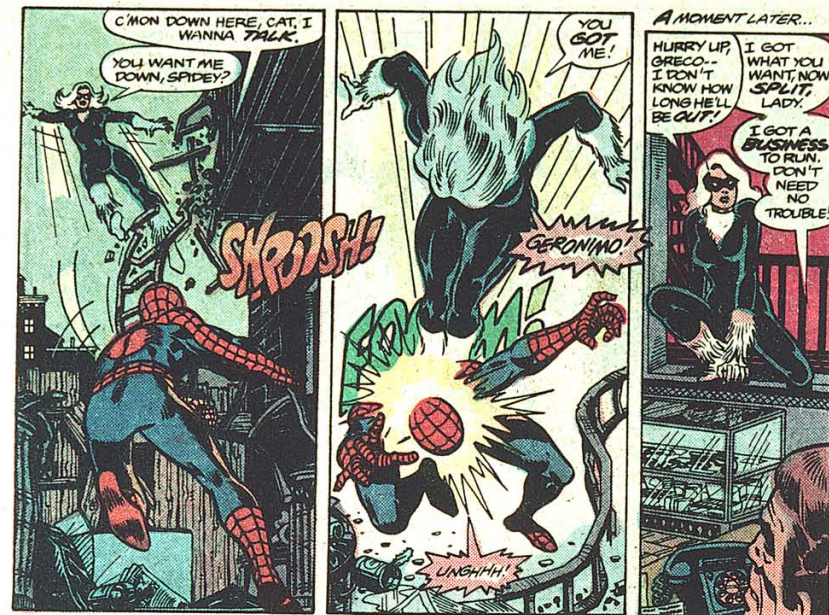


NO SOONER DOES BARNEY BUSHKIN LEAVE, THAN PETE HEARILY SLUMPS INTO HIS FLUSHLY CUSHIONED CHAIR. AND BY THE TIME HE RISES ONCE MORE, IT IS EVENINGS...

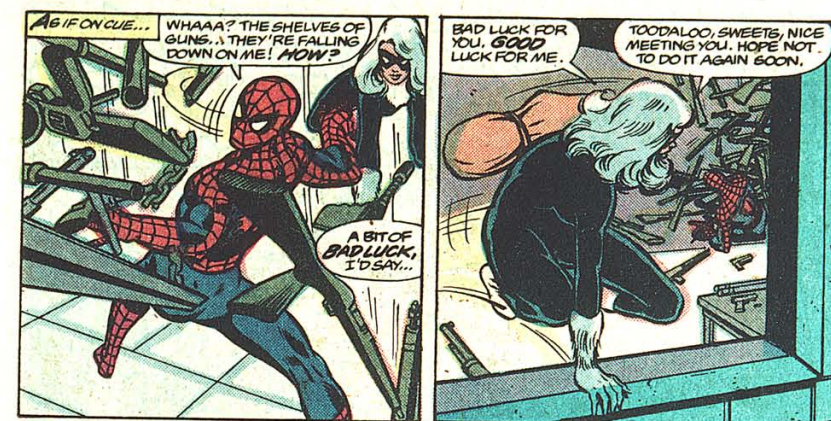


AND WITH THAT TERRIBLE PUN OUT OF THE WAY, SPIDER-MAN DROPS LOW AND OUT OF SIGHT AS THE ELUSIVE BLACK CAT WEAVES A ZIG-ZAGGED ROUTE DOWN NARROW CITY STREETS AND DARKLY LIT ALLEYS. BUT, FINALLY...





16



17

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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| ☐ Dr. Strange | ☐ Godzilla | ☐ Peter Parker | ☐ Thor |



BUT I HAVE TO RAISE
YOUR MASK JUST A LITTLE
BIT. OTHERWISE, HOW
COULD I DO THIS?

MMMMMMMM!!

NICE,
REAL
NICE.

WELL, GOT TO GO NOW,
LOVE.
HUH? WAIT A SECOND? WAIT!



AS THE FLUSTERED
SPIDER-MAN LOWERS HIS
MASK...

YOU? WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE... WE HAD A
REPORT OF
DISTURBANCE.

YEAH... YEAH...
THERE WAS A LITTLE
TUSSELE...
CHECK THE
FOURTH
FLOOR... A
CREEP NAMED
EMIL
GRECO.

HE'S GOT A GUN COLLECTION
I'M SURE YOU'RE JUST DYIN'
TO SEE.

HEY, HOLD IT,
DON'T GO.
I'LL NEED A
REPORT!



ASK
GRECO. MAYBE
HE'LL WRITE
IT FOR
YOU.

EVENING PASSES AS WE SHIFT
OUR ATTENTIONS TO A LOFT
HIGH ABOVE GREENWICH VILLAGE...

BOSS, THESE GUNS
AIN'T BAD, BUT I
STILL DON'T KNOW
WHAT Y'HIRED
ME FER.



I DEMAND
AN EXPLANATION
AS WELL, WOMAN.

DOCTOR BORIS
KORSE IS NO
MERE LUCKY!

IF YOU WANTED
TO KNOW, ALL
YOU HAD TO
DO WAS ASK.

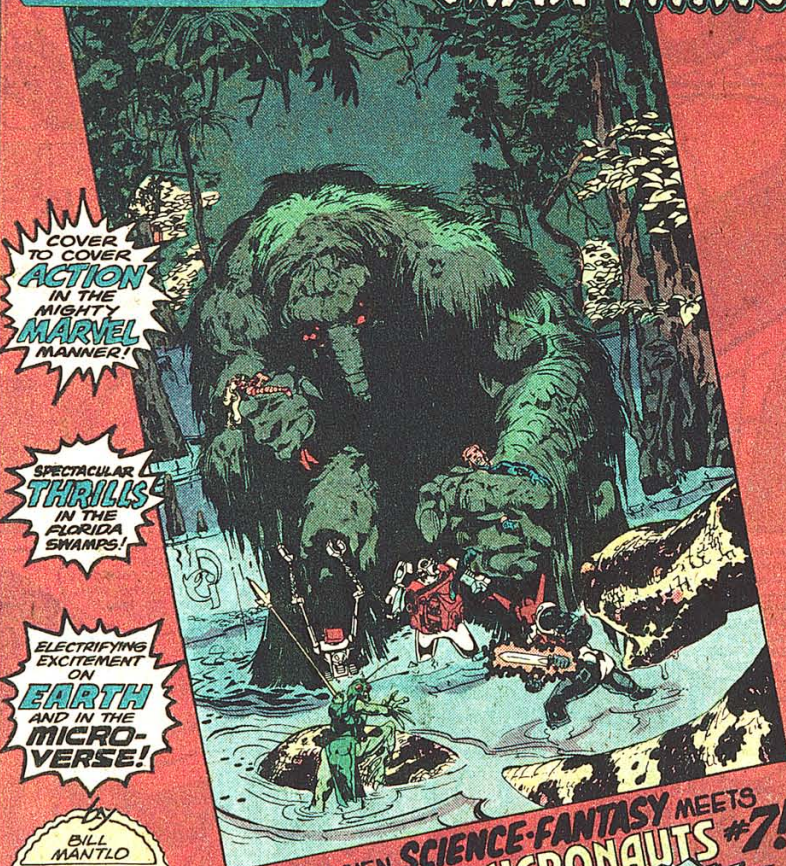


I'M GOING TO
BREAK INTO PRISON...
AND YOU BOYS ARE
GOING TO HELP
ME DO IT.



WHAT???

THE EPIC ENCOUNTER OF 1979!
IT'S **INSIDERS** vs **OUTSIDER** WHEN
THE MARVELOUS **MICRONAUTS** MEET THE MACABRE **MAN-THING**



COVER TO COVER
ACTION
IN THE
MIGHTY
MARVEL
MANNER!

SPECTACULAR
THRILLS
IN THE
FLORIDA
SWAMPS!

ELECTRIFYING
EXCITEMENT
OF
EARTH
AND IN THE
MICRO-VERSE!

by
BILL MANTLO
MICHAEL GOLDEN
JOSEF RUBEN-STEIN

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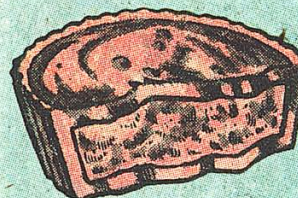
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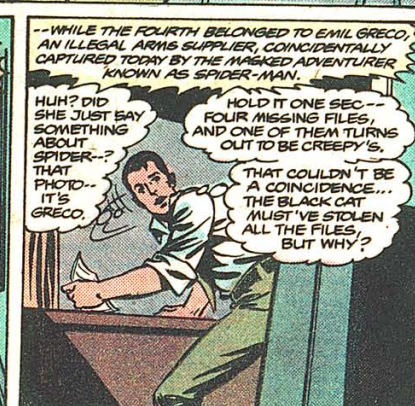
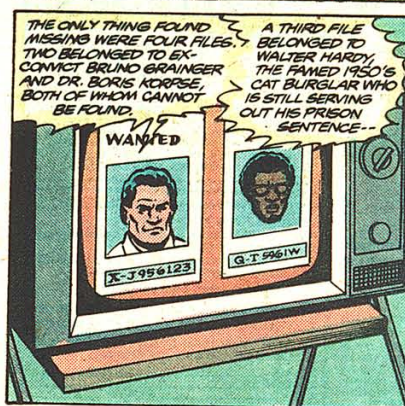
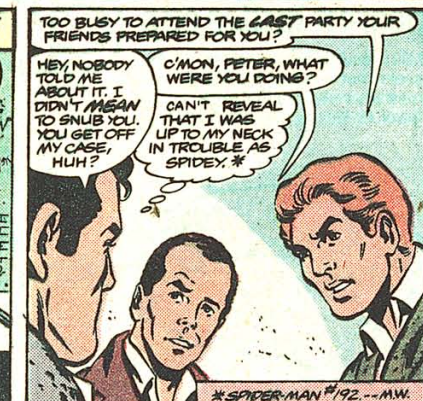
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AS THE BLACK CAT EXPLAINS HER PLANS TO HER CONSPIRATORS IN CRIME, LET'S MOVE AHEAD TO THE NEXT DAY, AND...



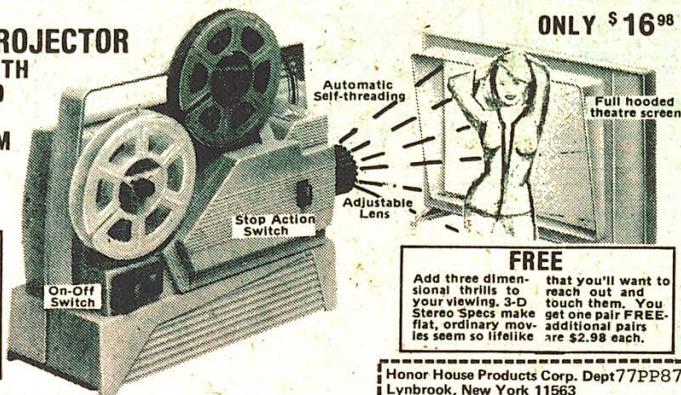
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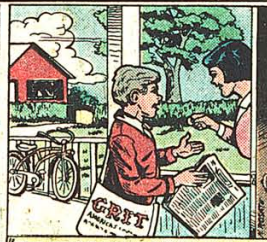
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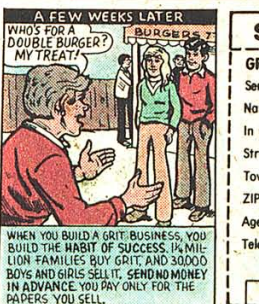
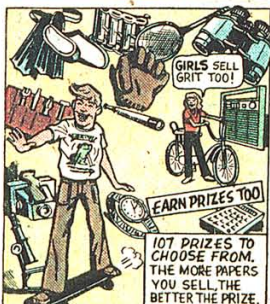
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AND, BEFORE YOU CAN SAY KAREEM ABUL-JABBAR, A FAMILIAR RED AND BLUE-CLAD FIGURE IS WEB-SLINGS ACROSS THE JUTTING SKYLINE OF NEW YORK...



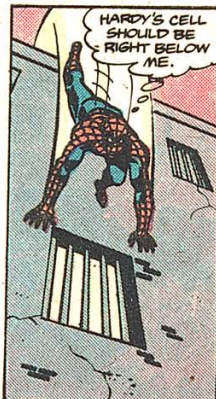
TWO HODDS MISSING, A THIRD CAPTURED BY YOURS TRULY.

I DON'T HAVETA BE MR. WIZARD TO GUESS WHERE THE BLACK CAT'S GONNA STRIKE NEXT.



HOW DOES A STICK MAN FIT INTO THE BLACK CAT'S PLANS?

AH HA... "DIS MUST BE DE PLACE!"



HARDY'S CELL SHOULD BE RIGHT BELOW ME.



BINGO! WALTER HARDY, I PRESUME!



JUST HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS I WANNA--

SPIDER-MAN? WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

UH-OH--MY SPIDER-SENSES...



! DANGER! BEHIND ME!

WELL, WELL, I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE, SPIDEY.

SHUCKS, AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T WAIT FOR OUR NEXT DATE.



ACTUALLY, I CAN'T, LOVE... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE...

BE A DEAR AND SCAMPER OFF.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU...

...ALTHOUGH I WILL IF YOU GET IN MY WAY.



WALTER HARDY, CAT BURGLAR... WHAT COULD MY FELINE FEMME FATALE WANT WITH HIM?

FROM WHAT THAT TV REPORTER SAID, HARDY'S TERMINALLY ILL--



ALL RIGHT, YOU DOLT. LOWER ME

HEY, DON'T CALL ME NO NAMES, BORIS. I DON'T LIKE TO BE CALLED NAMES.

AND I DO NOT WISH TO BE CALLED BORIS, YOU NEANDERTHAL!

ADDRESS ME AS DOCTOR KORPSE... AND OBEY MY EVERY WORD!



MEANWHILE...

OH, BUT I WISH, LOVE... AFTER I GET WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.

C'MON, CAT, IT'S ALL OVER... YOU CAN'T BUST OUTTA HERE.

WALTER HARDY? HE'S DYING... HE CAN'T HELP YOU.



OH NO I WON'T, YOU AIN'T THE BOSS.

YOU WOULD OBEY A MERE SWIP OF A GIRL? YOU CONTEMPTIBLE CRETIN.

I UNDERTOOK THIS ASSININE JOB FOR THE MONEY! NOT FOR-- AH-HH, THE OLD MAN.



YOU KNOW I CAME FOR HIM?

SURE, I'M A BUNDLE OF INFORMATION, ASK ME WHAT'S THE CLOSEST STAR, OR HOW TALL'S THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, OR EVEN THE ATOMIC WEIGHT OF POPCORN!



LISTEN TO ME, YOU OLD FOOL... HIDE BEHIND YOUR CAT... I'M ABOUT TO BLOW YOU FREE.

YES...YES... WHATEVER YOU SAY.



I KNOW ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE, SPIDEY--AND YOU'RE NOT.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, gang, remember me telling you about our top-secret Project X list ish? Well, wouldja believe that it's such a hush-hush mystery that there are even some people in the Bullpen who don't know all about it? Since I previously mentioned that it's a new and different type of mag, the question has arisen, "Is it a comicbook, or have we abandoned the style that's made Marvel a household word?" (Well, in my household, anyway!) You can set your fears at rest, believer. Project X will definitely be a comicbook type of publication, but totally different from any we've ever done before! I'm hoping we can get our act together in the next couple of weeks so that I can lay it all on you next issue.

In the meantime, it's ceremony time! I hereby award a majestic Marvel medalion with oakleaf cluster to the students and faculty of Philadelphia's Itanic Temple University. While I was making a typical tempestuous speech on campus recently,

Mellow Mike McGrath, a journalist buddy of mine who's one of Temple's more garrulous grads, informed me that this was the fourth time I had inflicted myself upon that awesome altar of academe! Four speeches at the same school! I don't know whether to congratulate them for their superb choice of lecturers, or for being unsurpassed gluttons for punishment! I'd probably wax even more sentimental except that I've gotta rush now—it's time to notify the Guinness Book of Records!

Incidentally, there's another big, wild surprise coming your way this month—and it's really different—really a knock-out! It's MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #1, the hottest thing since Johnny Storm's temper tantrums! Imagine, a brain-teaser on every big, exciting page—every one based on our own spectacular super-heroes—with no ads! packed cover to cover with puzzles, mazes, games, and every far-out pencil project you can think of—as well as plenty that you

never knew existed! It's another original Marvel first—never been anything like it! MARVEL FUN AND GAMES! Our latest and greatest monthly comicbook sensation! The first collector's-item issue is on sale now! So what're you waiting for? Go, team, go!

Now, 'tis time for me to resume our continuing argument about what to call Project X. I told our bluishin' bullpen buddies the title wouldn't be all that important so long as we fill up most of the cover with those drama-fraught words, "Stan Lee Presents"—but I suspect they didn't quite see it that way! Hence, it's back to battle for the nonce. (And if I win a nonce, I hope it won't be too heavy to carry!) I'll bring you a blow-by-blow in my next column so you can learn how it all turns out. Till then, remember—never tackle a bad-tempered turtle; it could land you in the soup!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! *The Comics Event of the Month and Possibly of the Year Dept:* It's here! The 100th issue of CONAN THE BARBARIAN! It's 34 pages of thrills by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Ernie Chan! It marks a dramatic turning point in the life of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian! It's sure to be a classic collector's item—and, by Crom, it's only 60¢! If you can't only buy one comicbook this month, this is the one. Get it now!

ITEM! *The Real-Life Human Interest Event of the Month and Possibly of the Year Dept:* This month, amiable Editor Al Milgrom weds beautiful Judy Lewin, who hails from Al's home town of Detroit. Congratulations and best of luck from the Bullpen, folks!

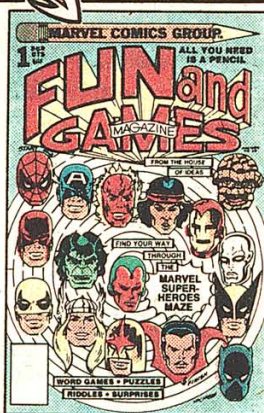
ITEM! There are lots of things happening this month in Marvel Comics, and we humbly advise you to glom onto every single one of our four-color wonders. If you want just a hint of what's in store (as if a word to the wise weren't sufficient) well, check this: in STAR WARS #25 an epic begins with a gripping tale entitled *Siege at Yavin*, by Archie Goodwin, Carmine Infantino and Gene Day. DEFENDERS #73 features the wildest, weirdest new character we've ever seen! His name is *Xhoohx*, and the only way to find out how to pronounce that is to ask scribe Ed Hannigan or buy a copy of the magazine. The secret that goes with that crazy monicker will floor you! Meanwhile, Spider-Man is up to his webbed neck in trouble with a feline female called the *Black Cat*, in THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN #194. Believe us, writer-editor Marv Wolfman made sure she's far more than you'd expect. Last, but not least by any means, we in the Bullpen would like to acknowledge what is possibly the outstanding achievement in comics art this month, namely DAREDEVIL #159. The story, by Roger McKenzie, is inspired, the art, by brand-new sensation Frank Miller and long-time star inker Klaus Janson, is superb. Don't pass it up! All of the above are on sale right about now, friends!



ITEM! Soon, very soon, a title will be returning to the Marvel lineup after a hiatus of nearly eight months. It's among the most requested comebacks of all time, in no small part by the Marvel editorial staff! We'll give you a hint—the title in question stars a character whose purpose is to discover his own humanity—or the lack of it! Watch this space!

ITEM! Speaking of Fun Books, the first MIGHTY MARVEL JUMBO FUN BOOK from Simon & Schuster, re-presents Fun Books #1 through #3 in 352 snazzy 8 1/2 x 11 pages. It's \$6.95, complete with a preface by Stan the Man, and it's at better bookstores already.



ITEM! We're happy to report that pulchritudinous production person, Paty, is recovering nicely from the minor wounds accidentally inflicted by her pet hybrid Burmese python, Dum Dum Dugan, during a somewhat too-spirited play-session. And, on that happy note, we bid thee good health, and watch yon sneaky snakes till next we meet!

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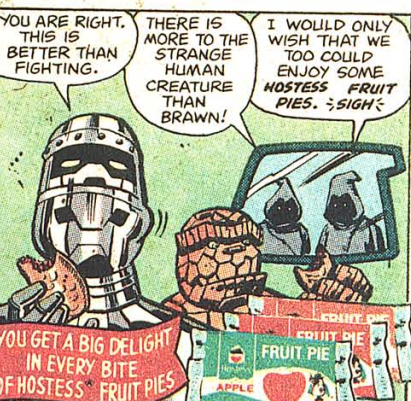
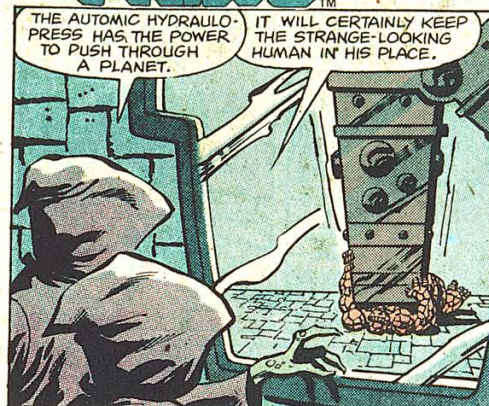


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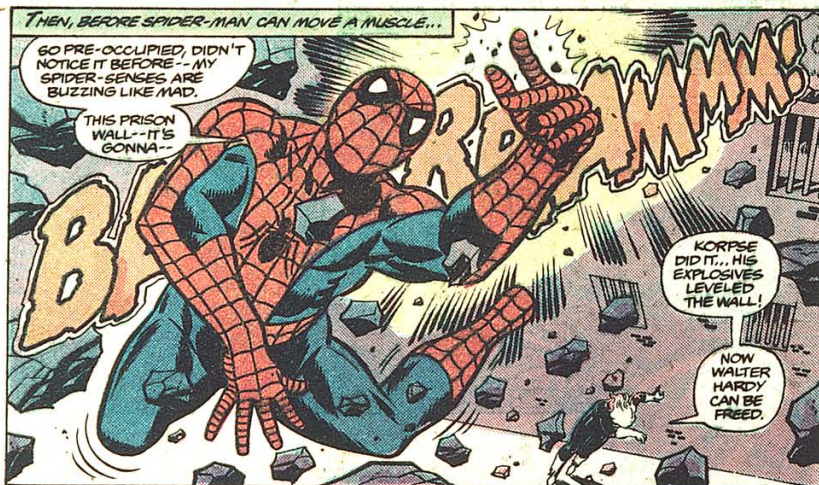
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NEXT ISSUE! THE ORIGIN OF THE BLACK CAT: HER DREADED SECRET--REVEALED! ALL THIS AND THE MOST SHOCKING ENDING IN THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!

NINE LIVES HAS THE BLACK CAT!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

MARV WOLFMAN
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Stan Lee,

I have uncovered a conspiracy destined to rock Marvel Comics to its very foundations. You see, there are two Marv Wolfmans. The first Marv Wolfman is the one who writes TOMB OF DRACULA, who created Domini, Aurora Rabinowitz, who used to write WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, who created SKULL THE SLAYER, and who I remember as plotting a surprisingly good Johnny Double story for DC's Showcase comic way back when. You know who I'm talking about.

The second Marv Wolfman is the guy who writes NOVA and wrote MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE. The guy who took all the fun out of SPIDER-WOMAN by giving her human roots. I'm sure you know who I'm talking about.

Ordinarily, this would not be too bad. But now they have taken their vicious conspiracy one step further. They have collaborated on a comic book. To wit: SPIDER-MAN. The first Marv is plotting the book, but the second Marv is writing it. Only the first Marv would get me so intrigued by all the things that are happening to Peter Parker's life. Only the second Marv could write such moronic speeches like in #183 when Aunt May is about to have a heart attack and Spidey is more worried about whether or not it's his fault than he is about his Aunt.

I hope the two Marvs don't get too discouraged. They've actually gotten me involved enough to write a letter, something I would never dream of doing if the previous writers were writing this book. I really like what's happening in SPIDER-MAN.

Joseph Kary
100 Hillside
Montreal, PO Canada

Joseph, we asked Marvelous Marv about your speculation, and he laughed, saying it was nonsense, that there is only one Marv. He then left to hand the latest issue of DRACULA into production. A few minutes later Marv returned (strangely enough, wearing a different pair of pants and shirt) holding the final issue of NOVA in his hands, saw your letter and went off raging. We're not quite sure what he said, but there are those in the office who will swear it was something like: "How did he find out? Wait till I get my hands on Marv 1!"

SHORT COMMENTS DEPT:

Because of space limitations we can't print too many letters this time around, so we thought we'd answer some of the most-frequently received questions:

To Alan Sissom and the others who have taken us to task about the new "old" look in our art, and demanding to know why we forced poor Keith Pollard into mimicking Steve Ditko's style: We didn't force Keith. He wanted to draw it in this manner. We simply agreed. And it seems that the vast majority of you Spiderphiles agreed as well. The reaction to all our changes has been fantastic to say the least.

To Patrick Romano and the zillion others who angrily wrote in: No, we didn't forget the subplot Lively Len Wein began in SPIDEY #170. As you can see, we've brought it back in spades... it's just that Marv wanted to pace that story to end at a certain time, and he didn't want to drag it out too long.

To Ed Via and the others who mentioned it: This issue indeed introduces a female antagonist for Spidey to battle. We, too, believe it's been too long in coming. Hope the Black Cat suits your tastes.

And, speaking of our feline femme fatale, we thought you'd be interested in seeing two previous covers that were rejected by the front office both featuring the Black Cat. The first was designed by Marv and drawn by Captivating Carmine Infantino for SPIDER-WOMAN #9. B.C. would have been a very different character had she appeared in Spider-Woman, but when Smilin' Stan saw the cover, he felt something was missing. And, just before Marv had Carmine redesign the cover, the Marvelous One moved on to other projects, and took the Black Cat along with him.

The second cover was the first one Marv designed with Klobberin' Keith Pollard. Once more, Stan felt there was a better way to handle our villainess' first appearance, and had Amiable Al Milgrom draw the cover you see sporting this very mag.

Such things happen often up here. Such concern is taken that many dollars will be spent correcting art or story until they are the best we can possibly do. We don't want to merely publish a cover because it's there. We'll take the time and energy to fix it up, redraw it, and change it until it is right.



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